

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 307920

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MASS, CG, BE, FR, US

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TO ZAIRE

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 12397 (B) BRUSSELS 12282
(C) STATE 302692

1, EMBASSY BRUSSELS REPORTS (REF A) THAT PRESIDENT
MOBUTU WILL VISIT PARIS AND BRUSSELS IN MID OR LATE
JANUARY DURING WHICH HE WILL HAVE INFORMAL TALKS WITH
RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.
EMBASSY BRUSSELS INFORMED DEPARTMENT (REF B) THAT
BELGIAN OFFICIALS WERE AWARE OF MOBUT'S IMPENDING
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TRIP AND INFORMALLY BELIEVED THAT THEREFORE US AND BELGIAN
CONSULTATIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE SHOULD BE
POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY. FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET
REPLIED TO OUR LATEST INQUIRY REGARDING DATES FOR
PROJECTED CONSULTATIONS.

2. BELGIAN FEELING THAT CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE POSTPONED
UNTIL AFTER MOBUTU'S EUROPEAN TRIP HAS OBVIOUS MERIT.
HOWEVER FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S
TRIP TO PARIS AND BRUSSELS OFFERS UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY

IN LIGHT OF MOBUTU'S OWN INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT
FOR US-FRENCH-BELGIAN CONSULTATIONS ON MILITARY
ASSISTANCE.

3. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THEREFORE THAT EMBASSIES
BRUSSELS AND PARIS DISCUSS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT POSSIBLE
UTILITY OF MEETING IN EARLY JANUARY BEFORE MOBUTU
VISIT SO THAT EACH PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN
A BETTER POSITION TO ARTICULATE A VIEW TO MOBUTU WHICH
REFLECTS GENERALLY A COMMON APPROACH, WITH THE AIM OF
INVOLVING HIM AND THE GOZ IN A MORE REALISTIC AND
BETTER COORDINATED MILITARY ASSISTANCE EFFORT.
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